

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

- 1-11. (cancelled)
12. (previously presented) A method for altering the substrate specificity of enzymes selected from the group consisting of lipases, esterases, nitrilases and phytases, which comprises carrying out the following steps:
- a) introducing a DNA sequence coding for the enzymes into the *Escherichia coli* strain XL1-Red or into a functional derivative thereof, which contain the genetic markers relA1, mutS, mutT and mutD5,
 - b) incubating the transformed *Escherichia coli* strain XL1-Red or its functional derivative to generate mutations in the enzyme gene,
 - c) transferring the mutated DNA from the strain XL1-Red or its functional derivative to a microorganism, which has no enzyme activity which would impede selection,
 - d) incubating this microorganism to detect the enzyme activity on or in at least one selection medium which comprises at least one enzyme substrate which makes it possible to recognize an altered substrate specificity of the enzyme, with or without additional indicator substances,
 - e) selecting the microorganisms which show an alteration in the substrate specificity, wherein the alteration in the substrate specificity leads to a stereoselective enzymatic activity.
13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the enzyme is a lipase.
14. (canceled)
15. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the enzyme is a nitrilase.
16. (canceled)
17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the enzyme is a phytase.

20-27. (cancelled).